



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **NEXT PHASE OF COUNTY TRUNK HIGHWAY (CTH) M EXPANSION ANNOUNCED**

*Plans also includes updating intersections in New Berlin and Brookfield*

WAUKESHA, Wis. – Plans were announced today to expand CTH M (North Avenue) between CTH YY (Pilgrim Road) and Calhoun Road to four lanes and replace the bridge over Underwood Creek. The design of this section of road will begin in 2016 with construction beginning in 2019. Plans were previously announced in 2009 for the first phase of the project, expanding CTH M from CTH YY to the East County Line (124<sup>th</sup> Street) with construction slated to begin 2016-2017. Today's announcement is an extension of the existing project. The plans will be included in Waukesha County Executive Dan Vrakas' 2012 – 2016 Five Year Capital Plan, a significant portion of the Executive's proposed 2012 budget.

The existing corridor is a two-lane roadway, however, high traffic volumes in the corridor require the road to be expanded to four lanes. Traffic volumes recorded earlier this year counted approximately 14,100 vehicles per day on the portion of the road planned for expansion. Typically, roads are expanded from two to four lanes when traffic volumes reach 13,000 vehicles per day.

"I am pleased to announce the planned expansion of the roadway," Vrakas said. "This project has been much anticipated by residents using this roadway and I am certain they share in my excitement for the completion of this project."

Other plans included in the 2012-2016 Capital Plan are to improve the intersections of CTH M and Brookfield Road in Brookfield and CTH D and Sunny Slope Road in New Berlin. These updates will address specific needs for the intersections: upgrades of existing signals and equipment upgrades, as well as roadway and general safety improvements. The County's population continues to rise which lead to an increase in roadway accidents and results in the need to install new traffic signals or a roundabout to reduce crash rates, delays and congestion.

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**“Next Phase of County Truck Highway M Expansion Announced,” continued ...**

“Public safety is my number one concern,” said Vrakas. “These updates will improve overall safety and usability for residents using these intersections. These improvements are required to meet the needs of the growing number of vehicles and pedestrians.”

Annually, the “Signals and Safety” program assesses intersections countywide based on traffic flow, crash rates, delays and congestion to determine which are in need of safety improvements. A wide range of improvements are considered to determine the unique needs of the intersection and the community served.

The Capital Plan portion of the budget will be introduced to the County Board of Supervisors tomorrow, September 1<sup>st</sup>. The County Board will review Vrakas’ full 2012 Budget in late September with final passage expected in November.

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